

Minutes of the May 10, 2019 Board of Emergency Medical Services Meeting

Dr. James Smith, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Emergency Medical Services to order at 0915 on Friday, May 10, 2019 in the Lower Level A room at the Nebraska State Office Building located at 301 Centennial Mall South in Lincoln, Nebraska. The meeting was duly publicized by distribution of the Notice of Meeting and Agenda at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting and posting the agenda at the entrance of the Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting.

Dr. Smith announced that this is a public meeting and the Open Meetings Law is posted.

The following Board members were present at the meeting: Randy Boldt, Dr. John Bonta, Karen Bowlin, Joel Cerny, Ann Fiala, Linda Jensen, Dr. Mike Miller, Carl Rennerfeldt, and Dr. James Smith. Arriving late: Dr. Thomas Deegan (1010) and Scott Wiebe (0945).

Dr. Donald Harmon and Mike Bailey were absent from the meeting.

Also present were: Tim Wilson, Program Manager; Wendy Snodgrass, EMS Education and Compliance Manager, Laura Huggins, Health Licensing Specialist, Lisa Anderson, Assistant Attorney General, Investigators.

Rennerfeldt moved, seconded by Miller to approve the Agenda. Voting aye: Boldt, Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, and Smith. Voting nay: None. Absent: Bailey, Harmon, Deegan, Wiebe. Motion carried.

Fiala recognized Dr. Smith on receiving the J.G. Elliott Award from the University of Nebraska Medical Center for his contribution to medicine and health programs.

Boldt moved, seconded by Jensen to approve the February 25, 2019 meeting minutes with no amendments. Voting aye: Boldt, Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, and Smith. Voting nay: None. Absent: Harmon, Bailey, Deegan, Wiebe. Motion carried.

Wilson shared the Office of Emergency Health Systems (EHS) is still working on the merge with the EMS Licensing Unit to ensure a smooth transition. There is a focus on continuing to process applications in a timely manner. 121 applications have been approved since the last board meeting. EHS staff will present information on each of the programs for the meeting.

Carol Jorgensen, EMS Specialist, presented a summary of the number of EMS service and hospital visits, trainings, meetings, etc. and the number of individual EMS contacts for 2018 and 2019. The EMS Specialists continue communicating with EMS, hospitals, physician medical directors and EMS training agencies using email, Facebook, Twitter, and a newsletter that is sent out twice per month.

There is a Nebraska EMS Needs Assessment survey that is currently being sent out to services to complete. Funding and future EMS projects funded by the Office of Emergency Health Systems that benefit Nebraska EMS services will be tied to the needs identified in the survey. There will also be a future attrition survey for EMS providers that have chosen not to renew their license and a survey for EMS training agencies. Dr. Smith asked what the board can do to help the EHS office with the re-organization. Jorgensen replied with patience during the transition, help with questions, and their support.

Wendy Snodgrass, EMS Education Compliance Manager reported that SafeTech Solutions was awarded a contract through the RFP process for leadership training. The intent is to offer one training opportunity

per year starting with Levels III and IV this year and Levels I and II in 2020. Dr. Smith asked if there will be any issues with funding for this training. Wilson stated there are few options for funding and should not be an issue. Snodgrass gave a training agency update providing there will be five site visits this year and two agencies are moving to unapproved status. She reported that the National Registry completed a review of the number of Pearson Vue test sites across the state and identified a need for a test site for the north central/north western section of the state. A new test site was approved for Kearney and Mission, SD which will be accessible for the north central/north western students. Snodgrass reported that multiple services and training agencies have requested the training presentation for intra-muscular administration of epinephrine for EMTs with positive response.

Debbie Kuhn, EMSC and CISM Program Manager, reported Dr. Tom Deegan was awarded the contract for EMSC physician medical director. EMSC Performance Measure goal is to increase the number of EMS agencies that have a Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator (PECC) prior to the next assessment. Data gathered from the ambulance assessment in 2018 indicated that 17.8% of Nebraska ambulance services have selected an individual who is responsible for coordinating pediatric specific activities. As a thank you, a Pediatric Scenario Guideline will be sent to each service that signs up. A letter and designation form will be going out to designate that person. Jensen suggested it also be sent to medical directors. Second step is to roll out the decal recognition program. Services applying for the recognition will receive a certificate, decal, press release, and be celebrated on social media. It was asked how to access information for the new ambulance logo. This can be posted on the EHS website. The next ambulance assessment will be released January 2020 and the Hospital Peds Readiness will be June 2020. New members were added to the EMSC Advisory Committee: Dr. John Bonta representing ER physician, Lisa Sherman will be the Family Advocate Network, and Brianna Rooney is the new Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) grant coordinator.

For CISM, Kuhn invited members to CISM Conference. Members are needed for CISM team. CISM basic trainings are to be held. A couple of debriefings were held due to the flooding. The Crew Care phone app from ImageTrend is now available as a part of an awarded opioid grant. This is a statewide initiative addressing the mental health of first responders. This is anonymous feedback to help identify first responder stressors, and identify common effects of stress. We will only receive non-identifiable aggregate data.

Sherri Wren, Trauma Program Manager, reported Diane Schoch was hired for the Trauma Nurse Specialist position. Dr. Lisa Schlitzkus, UNMC, was awarded the trauma physician medical director contract. The trauma advisory board will be voting on a new board chair. Region board meetings and designation visits are being scheduled. There are 49 trauma designated hospitals to date. Several hospitals have expressed interest in applying for designation. A Trauma Nurse Coordinator (TNC) training day has been planned for June 28, 2019 in York, NE. This training is for new TNC on their roles, trauma registry, and designation. A final revised draft of the trauma regulations has been submitted to the Attorney General's office. Trauma board's future goals include a trauma plan, disaster planning and response, regional plans, data collection, rehab, Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP) collaboration project, data project, how can EMS and trauma work better together, and reviewing and updating bylaws.

Becka Neumiller, Stroke/STEMI Program Manager, stated the STEMI Task Force is being re-enacted. This group will be working on loop closure. She reported on the Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES) annual report aggregate data. 12 EMS services and 21 hospitals participate in the CARES program. Services should contact Neumiller if they would like to participate. Wiebe thanked Neumiller for managing the CARES data and her hard work with the program.

Neumiller reported the Stroke Program is looking into implementing the American Heart Association EMS recognition program. They are working with the Nebraska Stroke Advisory Council task forces and stroke

recognition with dispatchers. The State Stroke Task Force is planning a statewide stroke drill for October 29, 2019. She is working with Nebraska stroke designation hospitals in developing a stroke plan and paperwork. Neumiller stated the Governor issued a proclamation that May is Stroke Month and shared various stroke trainings occurring across the state.

Wilson stated the Data Systems Program is working on the usage of eNARSIS data, improving the data system by evaluating the current eNARSIS system and identifying areas needed for change. Assistance is being provided by ImageTrend and DHHS Information and Technology. EHS Office is looking to re-engage user groups.

Dr. Eric Ernst reported he will be assisting the Office of EHS with the EMS assessments, working with the Protocol committee on new protocol format, and presented information at 407 Credentialing Review hearings. He reviewed the UNMC regional disaster grant that will be forming an EMS focus group in June to look at different systems to bring information and the computerized tracking program to EMS services. This program will aid in patient tracking and resource allocation management. The Physician Medical Director course is still in development and will be adding a rural component. He is reviewing protocols on how nurse providers interact and provide patient care with an emergency medical service. Dr. Ernst recommended that a position statement/guidance document to be developed to provide scope of practice/direction for services' physician medical director. Dr. Smith recommended a joint position statement be developed with the nursing board.

Dr. Smith opened discussion for setting a date for the next strategic planning session in 2020. The board was in general favor for setting a date in 2020 providing there are funds. It was suggested to move the meeting toward the middle of the state.

Fiala provided the Scope of Practice Committee update. The committee is to start work on an overall format change that will include a phone app and online platform for easier reference. Dr. Ernst provided a sample of model protocols from Minnesota for Nebraska use. The board recommends adapting a new format after the approval of rules and regulation changes. Kathy Hoebelheinrich from the nursing practice committee provided comments on the scope of practice of a nurse on an emergency medical service or nurse providing patient care on a transport from the hospital. The nursing practice committee welcomes collaboration from the EMS Advisory Board. Boldt motioned, seconded by Bowlin for the Scope of Practice Committee to delegate members to work on a joint position statement with the nursing practice committee. Voting aye: Boldt, Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Smith, Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Harmon, Bailey. Motion carried. She reported a correction of Decadron (Dexamethasone) dose to the formulary. The current dose is inconsistent to what is listed in rules and regulations. The Board discussed modifying repeat dose of Naloxone. Rennerfeldt motioned to add under Special Information: "If symptoms of opiate overdose reoccur after initial response to Naloxone, re-administer dose" and add under the adult and pediatric dosages: "May repeat dose for reoccurrence of opioid overdose symptoms as needed" to the formulary, seconded by Dr. Bonta. Voting aye: Boldt, Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Smith, Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Harmon, Bailey. Motion carried. The Board discussed adding IV acetaminophen and ibuprofen to the formulary for paramedic providers. Rennerfeldt motioned to add, seconded by Jensen. Voting aye: Boldt, Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Smith, Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Harmon, Bailey. Motion carried. Miller motioned to allow EMT providers to administer oral, over-the-counter analgesics following the new National Scope of Practice if allowed with current regulations. Seconded, by Bowlin. Voting aye: Boldt, Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Deega, Fiala, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Smith, Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Harmon, Bailey. Motion carried.

(The board took a break at 1057)

(The board returned from break at 1111)

Joel Cerny shared an update on legislation introduced related to EMS. LB 8 was approved to give Physician Medical Directors the right to use sirens. LB 135 deals with licensing out-of-state EMS students was placed on general file. LB 212 was approved. This bill amends the requirements for video and telephone conferencing to the Open Meetings Act. Still in Committee: LB 620 outlaws texting while driving; LB 701 requires billing for all Emergency Medical Services for transport to a facility. Wilson stated there is a resolution to study raising the 50 Cents for Life. No bills were brought forth from LR 395.

Cerny shared Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association update. The NSVFA Recruitment and Retention committee will be meeting 5/16/19 to discuss the Strive College tuition reimbursement portion of our \$1.378 SAFER Grant. John Bomar and Cerny, as directors to the National Volunteer Fire Council, attended the spring meeting in Washington, DC in April to talk to our National Senators and Congresspersons as well as attend NVFC Meetings. The main item that we will be focusing on is the Siren Act H.R. 5429 that was tagged onto the farm Bill. It has monies available for EMS training and equipment. Fire school is scheduled for May 17, 18 and 19, 2019. The segmented EMS class was one of the first classes to fill.

Bowlin reported the Nebraska Emergency Medical Services Association (NEMSA) is still working with senators on different processes. Miller asked that a Board comment on the mis-handling of not refunding registration fees to those that were not able to attend the spring convention due to the flooding be reported back to the association. This sent a poor message to emergency medical services and providers.

Jorgensen presented on the revised inspection documents. The EMS Inspection Document combined multiple inspection documents into one. The EMS Inspection Guidance Document will be located on the EHS website to help services prepare for inspections. The Board discussed various questions proposed by Jorgensen and EMS Specialists. The general consensus was to leave wording as is on the proposed documents. The Board committee will look at proposed changes to Chapters 11, 12, and 13 to make record retention consistent. Clarification was asked by Jorgensen on the backup response plan for inter-facility transport companies, flight, or non-transport. The Board suggested the Specialists to work with services to develop/revise current plan according to current regulations and appropriate to that service. Jorgensen asked for the Board's input on the inspection of services with multiple sites and multiple ambulances. General consensus was for the Specialists to randomly select which site(s) and ambulance(s) to inspect. The specialists have the latitude to inspect more if warranted and limit inspection to in-service ambulances. Fiala commented that the Specialists can ask board members to assist with inspection if needed.

(Bonta left at 1229.)

Jorgensen asked the Board to identify Critical Deficiencies that would warrant Board review of a service inspection. General consensus was to leave it to the Specialists' judgment/discretion to identify immediate egregious deficiencies that can include gross neglect, falsification, and to utilize the mandatory reporting guidance. Jorgensen to send the rest of the draft documents to the Scope of Practice Committee for review. Current documents to be placed back on the EHS website for use until draft documents are approved.

(The board took a break 1235)

(The board returned from break at 1245)

Bill Leggio presented handouts and information on the 2050 EMS agenda. The Agenda's vision is by 2050, EMS Systems are People Centered. He highlighted the Agenda's topics of Inherently Safe and Effective, Integrated and Seamless, Reliable and Prepared, Socially Equitable, Sustainable and Efficient, and Adaptable and Innovative. Miller asked of Leggio for suggestions that the board should start

considering. Leggio suggested recognizing EMS as an essential service and start identifying State deficiencies and successes in the EMS system. The full document is available at www.emsagenda2050.org.

Wilson and Miller provided an update on the Critical Care Paramedic and Community Paramedicine/Mobile Integrated Health (CP/MIH) applications to the 407 Credentialing Review. The last of five meetings was held on May 6, 2019. The Committee voted 6-0 in favor of supporting CP/MIH; voted 4-2 in favor of supporting Critical Care Paramedic. The applications next go to the Board of Health meeting on June 5, 2019 and then to the Chief Medical Officer for final decision. This process still needs the support of the EMS community.

Wilson gave rules and regulations update. Repeated rules and regulations were combined into two new chapters. Chapter 9 is proposed for licenses for businesses which will include training agencies and services; Chapter 10 is for licenses for individuals. Wilson received comments for Chapter 11, 12, and 13 from legal review and has sent it to Board members for their review.

The July 12, 2019 Board meeting is scheduled to take place at the Statewide EMS conference in Kearney, NE. The open meeting session with all attendees is tentatively scheduled for 1115-1230.

Wilson commented on setting parameters for the use of eNARSIS data. The Board requested a breakdown of certain criteria from all 2018 runs.

Wilson reported the current Board vacancies: 2-Public Member, Paramedic Member, Physician Assistant Member from a Service Program, Emergency Medical Technician, Member at Large.

The Board discussed alternate locations to hold the meetings. Currently looking into options for webcasting the meetings.

(Deegan left at 1408)

Rennerfeldt moved, seconded by Bowlin to go into closed session to hear discussions regarding confidential information and to protect the reputation of individuals named or referenced in such discussions at 1410. Voting aye: Boldt, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Harmon, Bailey, Bonta, Deegan. Motion carried.

Boldt moved, seconded by Rennerfeldt to return to open session at 1546. Voting aye: Boldt, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Smith and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Harmon, Bailey, Bonta, Deegan. Motion carried.

Wiebe moved, seconded by Rennerfeldt to issue Paramedic license to Travis Rupp. Voting aye: Boldt, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Smith and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Harmon, Bailey, Bonta, Deegan. Motion carried.

Boldt moved, seconded by Bowlin to issue Emergency Medical Responder license to Joel Olena. Voting aye: Boldt, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Smith and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Harmon, Bailey, Bonta, Deegan. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1550.

Respectfully submitted, Scott Wiebe, Secretary